

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE MUSEUM OF  
ZOOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY

## A NEW LEPOSOMA FROM PANAMA

BY A. G. RUTHVEN AND HELEN T. GAIGE

A number of specimens of a *Leposoma* which seems to differ widely from the hitherto known species, were collected by the Bryant Walker Expedition to Panama (1923). We take great pleasure in dedicating this form to Dr. John Grant South, United States Minister to the Republic of Panama.

*Leposoma southi*, new species

*Diagnosis*: Head scales very rough, longitudinally striated; two frontonasals; praefrontals half the length of the frontal and smaller than the frontoparietals; three pairs of chin shields, the two anterior pairs in contact; scales from the eye to shoulder very rough (smoother in *dispar* and *taeniata*).<sup>1</sup>

*Type Specimen*: Cat. No. 48065, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. Progreso (90 ft. elev.), Chiriqui Province, Panama; April 19, 1923; H. T. Gaige, collector.

*Description of Type Specimen*: Form of head and body as in *L. dispar*; head scales very rugose, strongly striated; two frontonasals, each slightly concave behind; a pair of prae-

<sup>1</sup> We are indebted to Dr. G. K. Noble, American Museum, for the opportunity of examining a paratype of *L. taeniata*.

frontals, each half the length of the frontal, smaller than the frontoparietals; parietals almost as wide as the interparietal; four supraorbitals; two frenoorbitals; six upper, five lower labials; one anterior chin shield, followed by three pairs, the sides of the anterior two pairs in contact, the posterior pair much smaller, separated by a group of three small scales, and bordered behind by a row of enlarged scales which are separated by several smaller scales; a series of granules across the throat from ear to ear; scales from eye to shoulder very rough, almost tubercular; scales on the throat narrower and more pointed than the ventrals; ventrals strongly keeled, mucronate; anal plates five; scales around the middle of body 23; scales from occiput to base of tail 31; scales from chin granules to vent 33.

Snout to vent 32 mm.; snout to ear 7 mm.; snout to eye 3 mm.; greatest width of head 5 mm.

Color in life: head and tail deep brown, almost black; a stripe of reddish brown from occiput to tail, becoming lighter on the sides, where it is bordered by a dark brown stripe; below reddish yellow; three light spots on upper lip and five black spots on lower lip.

*Remarks:* There are nine paratypes of the new species in the collection which vary little in color and scalation. It should be noted that the smallest specimen has a deep groove down the center of the frontonasal, but it is not actually divided. The scale counts of eight specimens average: around the middle of the body  $24\frac{1}{4}$ , from occiput to base of tail 32, and from the chin granules to vent 34. The main variation is in the arrangement of the chin shields. The third pair may be separated by one, or as in the type, by three small scales bordered behind by scales of equal size, or by a larger scale which may be bordered behind by two scales of the same size with still smaller ones behind, or the smaller, irregular scales may be in direct contact with the larger scale.

The Museum of Comparative Zoology has sent us for comparison a *Leposoma* (collected at Suretka, Sixaola River, Costa Rica, by E. R. Dunn) that corresponds fairly well with

*L. southi* with the exception of the chin shields. The shields of the third pair are small, separated by two scales almost as large, and behind them is a row of subequal enlarged scales.

Our specimens were all collected in the ground litter on the forest floor in the District of Alanje.